

USING WISH / IF ONLY



By: MsC. Ginett Sánchez

USING WISH / IF ONLY

We use the verb **WISH** and the expression **IF ONLY** to express a wish or desire.

IF ONLY is more emphatic than **WISH**

Examples:

I **WISH** I were a millionaire

IF ONLY I had more time



To express our wish to change the present into a different reality or when we would like something to be different in the present, we use the following structure:

WISH /IF ONLY +past simple or past continuous.

Examples:

I *wish* I had a new car

If only he were dancing with me

In formal English you use "were" instead of "was"



To express regret about something that happened or did not happen in the past, we use the following structure:

WISH /IF ONLY +past perfect .

Examples:

I *wish* I had studied for my English Test

If only he had called me sooner



To say a polite imperative or wish for a change in a situation or someone's behavior, we use the following structure:

WISH /IF ONLY + would.

Examples:

I *wish* she **would** be more respectful

If only you **would** help me more often



To show your desire that someone was able to do something, we use the following structure:

WISH /IF ONLY +could.

Examples:

I *wish* I could go with you to the party

If only my mother could see me now



Exercise: Write a composition (250 words) using WISH /IF ONLY expressing all the situations explained in this presentation.

